

TT42

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 08478 161534Z

ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	DTC-01	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-01

/059W

-----52B6CD 161535Z /38

O 161527Z JUN 94

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4747

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY HARARE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 08478 161534Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 008478

LONDON FOR MCKINLEY; PARIS FOR PERLOW

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PINS, MASS, RW, SF, UN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIATION IN
RWANDAN CONFLICT

REF: A) PRETORIA 8217 B) IIR 6 880 0195 94 (NOTAL)

UNCLASSIFIED

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ON JUNE 15, LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED A SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION STORY THAT PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA HAD BEEN ASKED BY BOTH SIDES OF THE RWANDAN CIVIL WAR TO MEDIATE TALKS TO END THE CONFLICT. THE APPROACHES WERE REPORTEDLY MADE DURING THE OAU SUMMIT IN TUNIS. THE NEWS STORY IS BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE IN TUNIS ON JUNE 14 BY PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN JOEL NETSHITENDZE. NETSHITENDZE TOLD REPORTERS THAT MANDELA IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO WARRING PARTIES. POLOFF SPOKE WITH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA ROELF VAN VUUREN ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 15. VAN VUUREN SAID THAT DFA HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIATION. HE SPECULATED THAT MANDELA HAD AGREED TO BECOME

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 08478 161534Z
INVOLVED "OFF THE CUFF." VAN VUUREN HOPES TO GET A READ-OUT ON THE INITIATIVE WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION RETURNS TO PRETORIA. HE AGREED TO KEEP US INFORMED.

3. JUNE 15 PAPERS ALSO CARRIED A RELATED STORY ON THE PREVIOUSLY MOOTED POSSIBLE PROVISION BY SOUTH AFRICA OF 50 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TASK FORCE IN RWANDA. REPORTEDLY, MANDELA TOLD A LUNCHEON AUDIENCE AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN TUNIS ON JUNE 14 THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE U.N. TO LEASE THE APC'S WITH DRIVERS TO THE TASK FORCE. MANDELA SAID THAT THERE WERE "PROBLEMS" WITH THIS REQUEST AND THE ISSUE WAS STILL BEING DISCUSSED. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE "PROBLEMS" RELATE TO THE DRIVERS. AS REPORTED REFTELS, NEITHER THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE (SANDF) NOR DFA FAVOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AT THIS TIME.

4. COMMENT: DFA CLAIMS OF BEING TOTALLY UNINFORMED ABOUT A POTENTIALLY MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ARE PLAUSIBLE. THE QUESTION OF THE 50 ARMORED PERSONNEL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CARRIERS POSES DIFFICULTIES BOTH TO DFA AND TO THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. FOR EXAMPLE, MOVING THE APC'S
FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO RWANDA WOULD BE A COSTLY
VENTURE. IN FACT, IF SOUTH AFRICA DOES AGREE TO
PROVIDE THE APC'S, SOME OF OUR SOUTH AFRICAN
CONTACTS SPECULATE THAT WE WILL BE ASKED TO
TRANSPORT THEM TO RWANDA. END COMMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PRETOR 08478 161534Z

5. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED